

## **CRIMINALIST I**

### **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES**

The fundamental reason the Criminalist I exists is to perform professional level work involved in the examination, identification, and evaluation of physical evidence in the investigation of crimes for the Police Department. This classification is non-supervisory and receives general supervision from the Crime Laboratory Manager.

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

Makes chemical or physical analyses and microscopic examination in the examination, identification, evaluation, and comparison of physical evidence in the investigation of crimes. Operates a microscope requiring visual and muscular dexterity; operates various laboratory equipment and safely works with various chemicals and powders.

Lifts and moves evidence. Visually distinguishes the full range of the color spectrum to perform testing of drugs and body fluids.

Examines, identifies, interprets, evaluates suspected evidence which includes narcotics, dangerous drugs and blood alcohol, serology, trace and arson samples. Follows prescribed procedures and policies. Provides general scientific information as requested.

Compares analytical findings with known standards. Discusses laboratory test results with other lab professionals, officers, and attorneys and provides expert testimony in court.

Comprehends and follows detailed, highly technical oral and written instructions to prepare clear, concise, comprehensive reports and records. Prepares and presents detailed reports. Studies and researches techniques and procedures in the field of forensic science.

Responds to requests to gather evidence at crime scenes and works together as a team towards a common goal. Follows collection policies and procedures.

Chemically identifies and quantifies compounds. Interprets scientific data. Lifts and moves evidence. Safely works with various chemicals and powders.

Communicates and deals effectively with co-workers, the general public and other law enforcement agencies' staff.

Collects and preserves evidence at crime scenes. Performs work satisfactorily in a variety of unusual working environments such as arson, rape and homicide scenes at which deceased persons, body fluid, hair and fibers, weapons and other materials must be handled.

Maintain regular consistent attendance and punctuality.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

#### **Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**

Knowledge of:

The basic principles involved in scientific examination of physical evidence.

The principles of chemistry, physics, biochemistry, physiology and photography as related to forensic science.

The basic uses and effects of drugs; hazards and toxicity of chemicals.

The operation, maintenance, care and use of scientific instruments and apparatus used in a crime laboratory.

Must:

Learn and apply rules of evidence, criminal procedure, crime scene procedures, state and federal statutes and case law covering drugs and the use of physical evidence in court.

Visually distinguish the full range of color spectrum in order to perform testing of drugs and body fluids.

Effectively communicate verbally and in writing.

Use proficiently a personal computer, a variety of software, and other office and laboratory equipment essential to performing daily activities.

Stand for long periods of time.

Operates a variety of standard office and laboratory equipment, including a personal computer and a microscope that require continuous and repetitive eye and arm or hand movement.

### **Education and Experience**

Bachelor's degree in chemistry, physical science, forensic science, or a related field with a minimum of 20 semester hours in chemistry related subjects

FLSA Status: Exempt

HR Ordinance Status: Unclassified